

**East Greenwich School Committee**

**Tuesday, February 23, 2010**

**East Greenwich High School Library**

**East Greenwich, RI 02818**

**ANY ITEMS ON THE AGENDA MAY BE SUBJECT TO A VOTE**

The regular session of the East Greenwich School Committee was called to order in the Hanaford School at 7:18 p.m. by Chair, Jean Ann Guliano. Those in attendance were: Jean Ann Guliano, Chair, Anne Palumbo, Vice-Chair, Deidre Gifford, Robert Durant, Susan Records, and Mary Ellen Winters, as well as Superintendent of Schools Dr. Victor Mercurio, Maryanne Crawford, Director of Administration, and Paula Dillon, Director of Student Services. The meeting commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Paul Martin was absent.

Mrs. Guliano announced the result of a vote taken in Executive Session that the discussion of the custodian contract issues be tabled until the next meeting.

**II. Public Comments**

Ellen Shanos, Larkspur Road, has concerns about Aramark snacks being offered at the Eldredge and Hanaford Schools. She feels it may be a way for Aramark to take care of some of their money issues. She asked who approved of the snacks. She also feels too much food is being thrown away. Mrs. Palumbo will look into this. Mrs. Shanos stated that students don't like having recess before lunch. Water in

**the third grade pod at Frenchtown is not hot. Mrs. Shanos asked about an elementary school closing once the 6th grades are moved to the new middle school. Dr. Mercurio responded they will look at all their options.**

### **III. Recognitions**

**a. The following Boys' Football players were recognized for being selected to the Providence Journal All-State Teams: Kevin Mirandou, 1st Team All-Division; Kevin Drumm, 2nd Team All-Division; Kyle Wilson, 2nd Team All-Division; Chris Pogue, 2nd Team All-Division; Jon Lamendola, 2nd Team All-Division; Dan Caron, 3rd Team All-Division; Tucker Gumkowski, 3rd Team All-Division; and Max Palmer, 3rd Team All-Division**

**b. The following Boys' Soccer Players were recognized for being selected to the Journal All-State Teams: Scott Douglas, 2nd Team All-State, 1st Team All-Coaches Team and All-Coaches Team; Rob Bialy, 2nd Team All-State, 1st Team All-Coaches Team; Cameron Giles, 2nd Team All-State, 2nd Team All-Coaches Team; Matthew Gowell, 1st Team All-Coaches Team; Ben Berger, 2nd Team, All-Coaches Team.**

**c. Ebed Jarrell, Cole Middle School 7th grader, was recognized for winning the State Middle School Wrestling Tournament**

**d. Marianne Davis, Health and Physical Education Teacher and Department Head was recognized for being chosen as the RIAHPERD (RI Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance) High School Physical Education Teacher of the year for 2009-2010**

e. Jenna Denice, East Greenwich High School, was recognized for being named to the 1st Team All-State for Volleyball

#### **IV. Approval of Minutes**

On a motion made by Mrs. Winters and seconded by Mrs. Palumbo the Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the January 26 and February 2, 2010 Regular and Executive Session with a minor change to the February 2, 2010 minutes.

#### **V. Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Mercurio updated the Committee on the Meadowbrook Farms Principal interviews. He noted that the selection committee will interview eight candidates. They will also have second round interviews.

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#### **VI. Action Items**

##### **1. Parental leave**

a. On a motion made by Mr. Durant and seconded by Mrs. Winters, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the parental leave of Melissa Fallow, High School English Teacher, from March 1, 2010 to April 5, 2010

2. High School Trips to Spain and France during April vacation in 2011

**Mrs. Winters made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Durant to approve the high school trips to France and Spain during the April vacation in 2011. The motion passed unanimously. Mrs. Gifford asked about the cost for teacher chaperones. Mrs. Varone, High School Foreign Language Teacher, stated that costs are covered for their transportation and housing.**

### **3. Tuition Schedule for typical peers in the preschool program**

**It was noted that this was a Finance Committee suggestion. No transportation is provided. We would like to start charging what other districts are charging. We could come up with a Memorandum of Agreement with the Town so the monies could be used for the Pre-School Program. Mrs. Winters made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Palumbo to approve this tuition schedule. The motion passed unanimously.**

### **4. Approval of suspensions, non-renewals and lay-offs**

**Dr. Mercurio stated that we have to notify teachers about layoffs and non-renewals by March 1st. Recalls depend on the budget process going forward. Mrs. Records noted she is very disappointed in the process and procedures for the notification to teachers. She stated that timing and communication should have been better. Mrs. Guliano noted that Mr. Martin let her know that he was also concerned with the method of communication to teachers. Mrs. Guliano noted that as of July 1st, all teacher placements will be made based on merit versus seniority according to the new BEP. Dr. Mercurio stated that he doesn't take the notifications lightly. He takes full responsibility for the method of communication. He added that the goal is to move**

these notifications to May 15th. Mrs. Winters made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Durant to approve the non-renewal of one teacher. Mrs. Records recused herself and the motion passed. Mr. Durant made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Winters to approve the remaining non-renewals and suspensions. The motion passed unanimously. Mrs. Gifford made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Durant to amend the previous motion to add back the two crossed out names. The motion passed with Mrs. Winters and Mrs. Records voting no.

#### **5. Re-designation of Rhode Island Foundation Endowment Fund to EGEF**

Mr. Jack Sommer provided a letter to the Superintendent about this endowment fund. It should go to the school side. He noted there is about \$12,000 now sitting with the RI Foundation and this will enable us to get the disbursements to use in all the schools. Mrs. Winters made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Palumbo to approve this re-designation. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **VII. Public Hearing on the FY 2011 Budget**

Dr. Mercurio presented the 2011 budget. He stated that enrollment has stayed steady. The proposal is for a \$723,317 increase. The total proposed budget is \$32,011,516. We are looking at reductions in the Chorus Teacher, Family and Consumer Science Teacher, Resource Teacher at the high school, French Teacher at the high school, a Paraprofessional at the high school, an Assistant Wrestling Coach, a Freshman Football Coach and a Freshman Basketball Coach. Mr. Durant stated they we are not getting rid of the French Department,

just taking numbers in those classes into consideration. It was also noted that most school districts are moving away from Family & Consumer Science to Robotics (Technology) classes. The bulk of the cost for athletics is transportation. There could be a shift to more Intramurals so students won't lose out. Dr. Mercurio noted that the Cole Chorus program could be run as an Appendix B position as well as Family & Consumer Science. Mrs. Gifford stated that half of the suggested cuts don't fit with the basic principle of not reducing programs. She feels we are whittling away at programs. She would like to look at teacher salaries, asking teachers to sit down again with the School Committee. She also suggested furlough days for administrative staff during the summer. She doesn't want to get rid of programs for kids. Mr. Durant mentioned that the Town Council could ask us to cut more. Mrs. Winters would like to have a breakdown of the high school miscellaneous budget. She would also like to see the district-wide Chorus schedule. Mrs. Guliano is concerned about the proposed cuts in Athletics,

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French, and Family & Consumer Science. Mr. Durant asked what our next options are if we don't eliminate the previous suggested cuts. Mr. Henry Kates, from the Finance Committee, stated that his committee tried to identify areas of cuts. They focused on management issues. They have fourteen recommendations including audit control functions, centralized purchasing, tracking of assets over \$500, access codes for copiers, health insurance being put out

to bid, transportation, technology (they feel it is not appropriate to spend any new money now since we are building a new middle school), facilities (consolidation of maintenance functions in the schools with the Town), custodian contract being aligned with economic realities, facility rentals. Their general recommendation is to have meetings on a regular basis, consistently reviewing the budget with budget owners. They feel that budget owners should be involved in negotiations with the unions. Mr. Kates noted that these recommendations don't impact programs. Mrs. Records would like these recommendations put into dollar amounts.

## **VIII. Discussion Items**

### **1. FY 2010 Budget Discussion**

We'll wait until after the joint meeting on March 1, 2010 with Town Council.

### **2. UCOA**

Dr. Mercurio stated that the Town is working with the General Ledger Account and it should be completed by February 25th.

3. School Committee candidates to run as non-partisan- Mr. Martin is not present to discuss this item. This will be put back on the agenda for March 9th.

### **4. Fields Update**

The punch list of work to be completed that was given to the school department includes the baseball and soccer fields. This work will be addressed in the spring. School Committee voted on the gates. School Committee Members asked why the gates weren't taken care of prior to the ground freezing. There is a question if the Town

Council voted on the gates. Fleet wants to know if it's the school or the Town holding off on the gates. Jeff Santos, Jodie Beth Drive, asked if the softball and baseball fields can be used in the spring. Mrs. Winters stated that hopefully we will be able to use the fields while we work everything out. Mrs. Guliano stated that the School Committee can accept one field and not the other. It was noted that there is an issue of irrigation on the soccer fields and we don't know if the vandalism affected the irrigation.

#### **5. Aramark Contract Update**

Mr. Oliverio stated that there was a recent conference call with Aramark to discuss the \$138,000 deficit. This deficit was because of Aramark's start up costs and equipment. Aramark will try to eliminate this deficit by giving us a grant for \$138,000 over four years. Aramark will guarantee up to cover up to a \$25,000 deficit annually for the next few years. Mr. Oliverio recommends that we take this deal because it's the best of the other districts. Aramark will also waive interest on the past due invoices. We can go out to bid every year but we'll pay a penalty if we don't renew. It was noted that Aramark anticipates breaking even this year and they have turned the program around. Mrs. Gifford would like something in writing that we wouldn't be liable. She also noted that the current year deficit of \$48,000 which they anticipate will fall under \$25,000. Mr. Durant would like a monthly update as to what Aramark is doing and would also like a year end audit.

#### **IX. School Committee Concerns**

The high school schedule might be a future agenda item at the end of



**the school year. We will look into tweaking the schedule to take the pressure off students. We can also look at a new location for graduation.**

**Mr. Paul Records spoke about the boys' basketball program, noting that the whole league may be disbanded and Freshman basketball may become a moot issue.**

**X. On a motion made by Mr. Durant and seconded by Mrs. Winters, the Committee voted unanimously to adjourn at  
9:55 p.m.**

**Respectfully submitted,**